

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted as a preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application.

Applicant has canceled claims 1 through 19 without prejudice in favor of claims 20 through 48 to remove informalities and multiple dependencies, and to better encompass the full scope of the present invention, notwithstanding that claims 1 through 19, as originally filed, would have been allowable. Accordingly, applicant asserts that the foregoing amendments are cosmetic in nature and that no claims have been narrowed so as to trigger prosecution history estoppel.

Claims 24-27 and 32 are commensurate in scope with the claims 5-8 and 12 which are part of the original International PCT application PCT/EP2005/051123 and have been determined by the International Bureau to have both novelty and inventiveness.


The fee of \$450.00 to cover the surcharge for presenting nine claims in excess of twenty is enclosed.

In addition, applicant has amended the specification to present it with proper headings and to delete reference to particular claim numbers.

Applicants request that the foregoing be taken into account when the Examiner takes up this application for action.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Ursula B. Day
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 47,296

Date: September 14, 2006
350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4714
New York, N.Y. 10118
(212) 244-5500
HMF/RL:af